

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 1674 without my signature.

I have long been committed to improving the nutritional quality of foods and beverages available to children in California schools. I believe that if California is going to have any further increase funding for school meals, it should also commit to improving the nutritional quality of the meals.

With the epidemic of childhood obesity as one of the most serious health crises facing our state, now is the time to implement the latest nutrition science on behalf of our children. There are many ways the nutrition of school meals could be improved, such as switching to lower-fat cooking methods, removing trans fats and increasing the availability of fresh produce, whole grains and other healthy choices. The bill fails to include any of these options.

I commit to working with the Legislature next year to identify substantive, measurable and reasonable standards for the school lunch and breakfast programs, in order to eliminate meals with unhealthy trans fats and those foods fried in unhealthy oils, as much as practically possible.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger